Payment of baggage duty for N.R.Is. in foreign exchange

1285. SH. JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a rule for the customs to exempt personal baggage duty of N.R.Is in Foreign Exchange;

(b) if so, whether this rule has been adhered to; and

(c) if not, whether Government would see that it is made a rule and strictly followed, in order to avoid pilferage of Foreign Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The suggestion has been noted for examination.

Minimum export price to be fixed in dollars

1286. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Chambers of Commerce from various parts of the country to have Minimum Export Price fixed up in view of devaluation of Indian rupee; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response to this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Percentage of literacy in the country

1287. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of literacy in the country for the year 1991 and what was the figure for the years 1981;

(b) what are the relevant figures for Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what measures are being taken to improve the literacy percentage in the country with particular reference to Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The percentage of literacy in the country according to the 1981 (excluding Assam) and 1991 (excluding J & K) census for the population aged 7 years and above was 43.56 per cent and 52.11 per cent respectively.

(b) The percentage of literacy in Tamil Nadu according to the 1981 and 1991 census for the population aged 7 years and above was 54.38 per cent and 633.72 per cent respectively.

(c) Universalisation of elementary education and universal retention in schools of children upto 14 years of age, a programme of non-formal education in the ten educationally backward States and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million adult illiterates in the 15—35 age-group by 1995 form an integral part of a larger programme for eradication of illiteracy for the country as a whole.

385 blocks have been covered in the State of Tamil Nadu under the scheme of "Operation Blackboard" 775 Centres are functioning in the State under Non-Formal Education Programme. Under the National Literacy Mission total literacy campaigns have been launched in Kamarajar, Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan and Pudukottai District in addition to the other ongoing adult education programme.

Checking illegal felling of the trees

1288. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans of Government to save illegal fellings of the trees all over the country; and

(b) what action are being taken by Government to monitor the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The State/UT Governments have taken protection measures against illegal felling of trees. Some State Governments have also intensified patrolling of forests by creating 'flying squads.' To supplement the endeavour of the State Govts., the Central Govt. have been operating a scheme 'Development of infrastructure for protection of forests against biotic interference.' Under the scheme, 50 per cent of the cost is borne by the Central Government on certain non-recurring items such as jeeps, vans, mobile and static wireless sets, fire arms, etc. Stringent measures are proposed in the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the amendment of which is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Reports of illegal felling are obtained from the State Govts. The six regional offices of the Ministry located at Bangalore, Bhopal Bhubaneshwar, Shillong, Lucknow and Chandigarh are being involved for close monitoring of the progress in the States under the Centrally sponsored Scheme.

Terms and conditions of appointment of Surveyors and assessors under GIC

1289. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms, qualifications, etc. laid down by the General Insurance Corporation of India and its subsidiaries for appointment of surveyors and assessors; and

(b) what are the terms of their appointment and the remuneration perks conveyance allowance, etc. paid to such surveyors and assessors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) General Insurance Corporation of India has issued detailed guidelines to the four subsidiary general insurance companies for empanelment of surveyors. They should be in possession of a valid licence issued by the Controller Insurance under Section 64 UM of the Insurance Act, 1938, for appointment as surveyors and assessors in respect of different classes of business viz. Motor, fire, marine cargo hull, engineering and other miscellaneous classes.

(b) Surveyors are independent professionals and are being paid on a case to case basis, as per the schedule of fees prescribed. They are also paid local conveyance allowance, travelling allowance and daily allowance as per the prescribed schedule.

राजा स्टेट लायब्रेरी रामपुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) के विरुद्ध शिकायत

1290. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल** : क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजा स्टेट लायब्रेरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) के विरुद्ध कतिपय शिकायतों की जांच के लिये कई वर्ष पूर्व गठित जांच समिति ने अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत कर दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है ; और

(ग) लायब्रेरी के स्कालरों को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयों को सुलझाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) भारत सरकार ने रामपुर राजा पुस्तकालय, उत्तर प्रदेश के विरुद्ध शिकायतों की जांच करने के लिए किसी जांच समिति का गठन नहीं किया है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।